

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 An apparatus and method for determining the actuation energy generated by a bimetallic actuator during transit between first and second states of stability. The apparatus and method further determining the threshold or set-point temperature of the bimetallic actuator during transit between bi-stable states. Accordingly, the apparatus and method directly measure both the snap force  $F$  and the set-point temperature of the bimetallic actuator during transit.